

REMARKS

Claims 8-13 and 102-107 are currently pending in this application. Claims 8-13 and 102-107 are rejected. Claims 1-7 and 14-101 have previously been cancelled.

By way of the present Amendment, claims 8-13 and 102-106 have been cancelled and Claim 107 is amended. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments as discussed elsewhere herein.

Objection to the Specification

The Examiner has objected to the specification for informal matters. Applicants in a good faith effort to expedite the prosecution of the present application, have amended the specification per the Examiner's request as follows.

Applicants have amended the specification to recite a new title: "Isolated Polypeptide Deletion Mutants Of Survival Of Motor Neuron-Interacting Protein 1."

Applicants have amended the cross-reference to related applications in order to update the status of the parent non-provisional application by including the statement: "This is a divisional of U.S. Application No. 09/399,081, filed September 17, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,646,113 which claims priority pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 119 (e) to U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/100,866, filed on September 17, 1998."

Applicants have amended the Brief Description of the Drawings to include reference to Figures 50A-H, Figure 51A-D, and Figure 52A-D.

No new matter has been added by way of these amendments to the specification.

Amendment to the Claims

Claims 8-13 and 102-106 have been cancelled in view of the Examiner's rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liu et al. (Genbank Accession No. AF027150, 30 October 1997).

Claim 107 has been amended herein.

No new matter has been added by way of these amendments to the specification.

Response to Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 10, 12, 102, 104, 106, and 107 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claims 10, 12, 102, 104 and 106 have been cancelled in the present amendment.

Claim 107 was rejected as being indefinite because it was unclear what is meant by a mutation that comprises a deletion of the carboxyl terminal 89 amino acids relative to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, and a deletion of the carboxyl terminal 162 amino acids relative to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2. Claim 107 has been amended to recite "...wherein said mutation is selected from the group consisting of a deletion of the carboxyl terminal 89 amino acids relative to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 and a deletion of the carboxyl terminal 162 amino acids relative to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2,..."

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 107 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Response to Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph - enablement

Examiner has rejected claims 8-13 and 102-106 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. As claims 8-13 and 102-106 are now cancelled in the present Amendment, this rejection has been rendered moot.

Response to Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph – written description

Examiner has rejected claims 8-13 and 102-106 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. As claims 8-13 and 102-106 are now cancelled in the present Amendment, this rejection has been rendered moot.

Rejection of claims 8-13 and 102-106 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 8-13 and 102-106 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liu et al. (Genbank Accession No. AF027150). As claims 8-13 and 102-106 are now cancelled in the present Amendment, this rejection has been rendered moot.

Summary

Applicants respectfully submit that each rejection of the Examiner to the claims of the present application has been overcome or is now inapplicable, and that the claims are now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of these claims is respectfully requested at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully submitted,

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